

elected members from single-member constituencies on the basis of universal adult suffrage and two nominated members. The Constitution provides for a Leader of the Opposition.

Ministerial responsibilities cover all areas of government business with the exception of external affairs, internal security, defence, the public service and administration of the courts, all of which are reserved for the Governor.

A major reform in the judicial branch of government was the Magistrate's Code of Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance, 1988, adopted by Parliament in December 1988. Under that Ordinance, the Governor, after consultation with the Chief Justice, has the power to appoint magistrates.

In February 1990, constitutional amendments were made under which responsibility for the offshore banking sector was transferred from local ministers to the Financial Secretary, a local official answerable to the Governor. An accompanying provision recognized the right of the people of Montserrat to self-determination. The action followed revocation of the licences of more than 130 of the 270 banks licensed in Montserrat, mainly for non-compliance with local banking regulations.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The economy is based on tourism and related activities, the building industry and government expenditure. Real gross domestic product grew by 12 per cent in 1988, compared with 10.8 per cent in 1987. That growth was mainly the result of increased construction activity for the third successive year and a large capital investment by the pub-

lic sector to refurbish power distribution lines island-wide.

Agricultural sector growth was 3 per cent in 1988 (6.3 per cent in 1987), which could be attributed to an increase in the production of root crops, vegetables and livestock, and in fishing.

Hurricane Hugo hit the Territory in September 1989, causing extensive damage to the social and economic infrastructure, private housing, agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

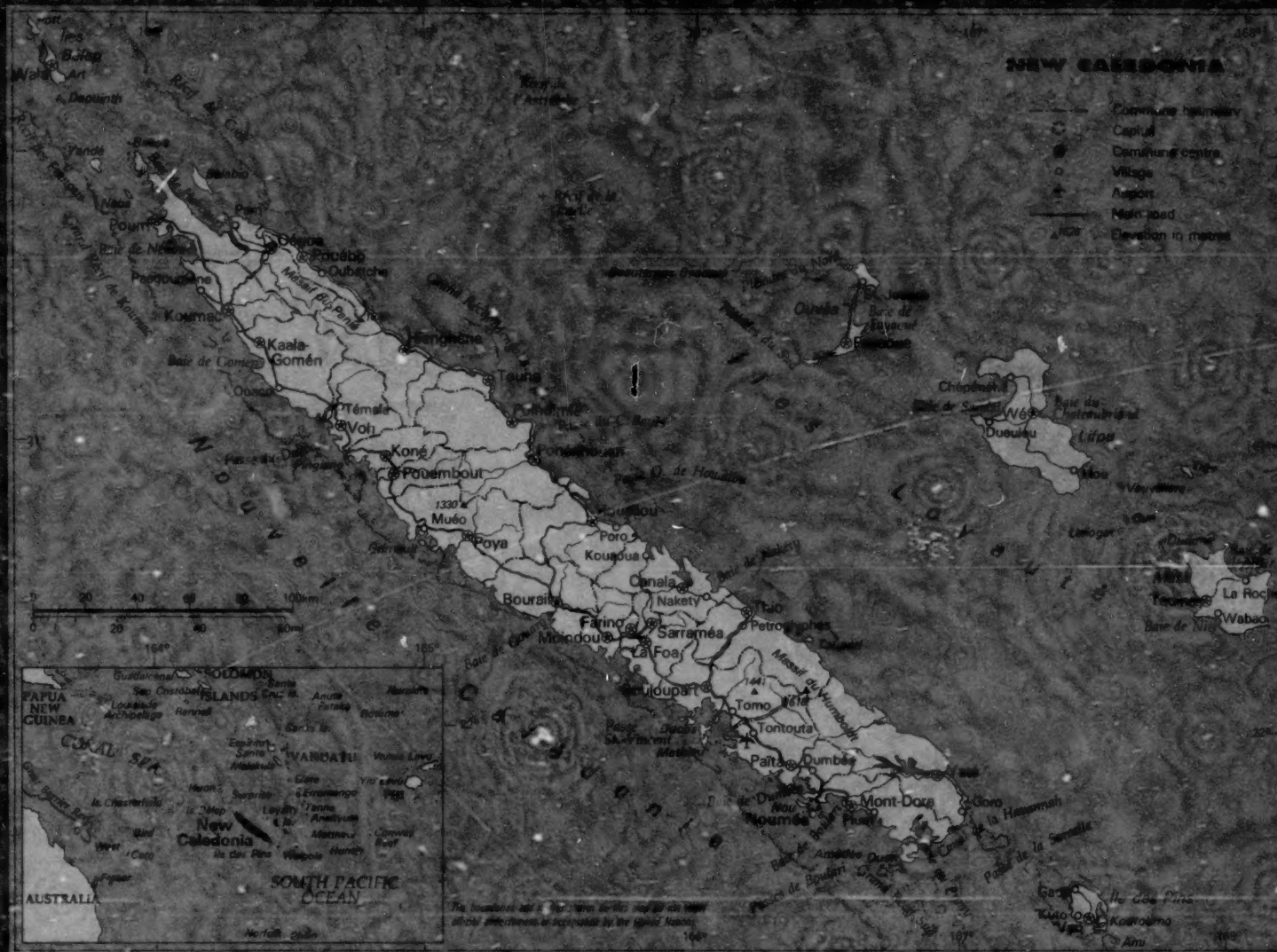
The manufacturing sector consists mainly of small-scale production for local and regional markets. The main manufacturer is an electronics assembly plant that employs between 200 and 300 persons and produces components for export to the United States.

The tourist industry has maintained its central role in the economy by stimulating the construction and service industries. For the first eight months of 1988, visitor arrivals increased by 4 per cent, to 14,344.

In 1988, for the first time, the entire labour force was employed. That achievement was accompanied by relatively stable rates of inflation.

Health conditions are generally good by international standards. Life expectancy is over 65 years and infant mortality is 1.7 per cent.

Education is compulsory and free for all children between five and 14 years of age at all government primary and secondary schools. There are nine government primary schools, two government-aided denominational schools, one private school and a school for the handicapped. Montserrat Technical College expanded its programmes in data-entry training, data processing and



believed to amount to 50 million tons. It also has deposits of cobalt and other strategic minerals.

GENERAL BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENTS

New Caledonia was first sighted in 1774 by Captain James Cook, who named it after the ancient name for his native Scotland. French explorers landed on the Ile des Pins in 1792, Protestant missionaries arrived in the 1830s, and the first Roman Catholic mission was established in 1840. France declared sovereignty over New Caledonia and the Ile des Pins in 1853. From then until 1884, New Caledonia was administered by military governors as a dependency of Tahiti. In 1885, a civilian Governor was placed in charge, assisted by an elected Advisory Council. The Territory was used as a penal colony and about 20,000 people were sent there by 1897.

A mining industry sprang up following the discovery of nickel in 1863 and gold and other minerals, including cobalt, in 1870. With that came an influx of settlers. Native inhabitants, who remained opposed to French rule, resorted to uprisings.

In 1948, New Caledonia became an Overseas Territory of France, entitled to elect representatives to the French National Assembly and Senate. Melanesians were enfranchised in 1951. In 1956, a 36-member Territorial Assembly was established. Executive powers were vested in a Governor appointed by the metropolitan Government. The Governor, assisted by a five-member Government Council, retained control of all national departments and the police.

The new French Constitution of 1958 provided that its Overseas Territories were an integral part of the French Republic. The Territories could decide to retain their current status or become departments of France or member States of the French Community. New Caledonia voted to maintain the *status quo*, it being understood that the decision would not preclude future evolution towards greater autonomy.

A 1963 bill in the French National Assembly curtailed the powers of the Territorial Assembly and the Government Council and restored extensive powers to the Governor. By 1976, with the Kanaks pressing for independence, the Council's membership was increased. It was given renewed responsibility for certain internal affairs, with a High Commissioner retaining overall executive control. In 1979, France reassumed direct rule through the High Commissioner and dismissed the Council because it refused to support a plan to institute economic reforms in exchange for deferring demands for autonomy and independence for 10 years.

In 1981, faced with increasing Kanak dissatisfaction, France outlined administrative measures to increase Kanak participation in the political and economic life of the Territory. To implement those reforms, the following year the French Government took for itself the power to rule New Caledonia by decree.

Between 1983 and 1986, there were a series of discussions and moves involving the French Government, the main pro-independence six-party coalition, the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste (FLNKS) and the main anti-independence party, the Rassemblement pour

industry sewing as a response to the manpower requirements of the Territory.

PUBLIC FINANCE

The consumer price index for the first 10 months of 1988 reflected a 1.6 per cent increase in prices, compared with 2.7 per cent in 1987. The balance-of-payments deficit widened from 2.3 million East Caribbean dollars (\$EC 2.70 = \$US 1.00) in 1987 to \$EC 3 million in 1988. The public debt in 1988 was \$EC 800,000.

MEMBERSHIP IN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Montserrat is a member of the Caribbean Community and Common Market and of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States as well as of institutions associated with both groupings, including the University of the West Indies, the Caribbean Development Bank and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank. It is an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and its subsidiary body, the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee.

FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS

Montserrat has the most advanced Constitution of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean. The

Government and the two Opposition parties share the view that economic viability should precede political independence.

In November 1988, the Chief Minister formally announced the intention of his Government to hold a referendum on independence for Montserrat. The referendum was subsequently postponed because of destruction and dislocation caused by Hurricane Hugo.

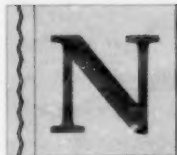
Recent constitutional developments include provisions for human rights, which would bring that aspect of Montserrat's Constitution into line with other democratic countries of the region and ensure that any citizen of Montserrat could seek to have those rights enforced. Other provisions include the transfer of the responsibility for the offshore banking sector from the Chief Minister and Minister of Finance to the Financial Secretary, who is answerable to the Governor.

In November 1990, the United Nations General Assembly reiterated that it was the responsibility of the administering Power to create such conditions in the Territory as would enable the people of Montserrat to exercise freely and without interference their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

Representatives of the Territory participated in the regional seminar for the Caribbean, held in Barbados in June 1990, as part of the Programme of Activities in Observance of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.



NEW CALEDONIA



New Caledonia is located in the south-west Pacific Ocean between Australia and Fiji. It consists of a main island, Grande Terre, and a number of smaller ones. To the east of Grande Terre are the Iles Loyauté (Ouvéa, Maré, Lifou and Tiga), to the north, the Iles Bélep, and to the south, the Ile des Pins. There are also several small, uninhabited islands to the north of the Iles Loyauté. The area of Grande Terre is 16,750 square kilometres and that of all the islands combined is 19,103 square kilometres. Nouméa, the capital, is located on Grande Terre. Three quarters of the total land area is covered with natural vegetation, nurtured by a subtropical climate.

According to the 1989 census, the total population was 164,173, of whom 44.8 per cent were indigenous Melane-sians known as Kanaks; and 33.6 per cent were of European origin, mainly French, of whom some 35,000 persons were descendants of the early settlers, known as Caldoches. In addition, some 21.6 per cent were of various ethnic origins, including Wallisians, Tahitians, Indonesians and Vietnamese.

The European settlers are largely clustered in and

around the capital, which has a population of at least 60,000. Settlers occupy the most developed agricultural land and dominate the Territory's economic life. Kanaks inhabit mainly rural and outlying areas, where they earn their livelihood as subsistence farmers and miners.

New Caledonia has 28 per cent of the world's oxidized nickel ore deposits and is the third largest nickel producer, after Canada and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Its known and estimated reserves of nickel are

LOCATION: South-west Pacific

CAPITAL: Nouméa

AREA: 19,103 square kilometres

POPULATION (1989): 164,173

ADMINISTERING POWER: France

la Calédonie dans la République (RPCR). Towards the end of 1984, there was escalating violence between pro- and anti-independence groups, resulting in more than 20 deaths and widespread destruction of property.

A new French Government that came into power in March 1986 favoured New Caledonia remaining part of France rather than achieving independence. It revoked many of the steps taken by the previous Government.

After the re-election of Mr. François Mitterrand as President of France in May 1988, intensive political consultations on the future of New Caledonia resulted in a series of proposals known as the Matignon Agreement. Legislation which followed from the Agreement provided statutory and other arrangements preparatory to the exercise of self-determination to take place between 1 March and 31 December 1998. The legislation was approved by a national referendum in November 1988. Following that, French authorities released 47 Kanak militants from gaol in Paris and Nouméa.

In May 1989, two FLNKS leaders, Mr. Jean-Marie Tjibaou and his deputy, Mr. Yeiwené Yeiwené, were shot and killed at Ouvéa. The killings raised fears that an upsurge of violence could take place in New Caledonia and implementation of the Matignon Agreement could be jeopardized.

However, developments are taking place in relative tranquillity, as exemplified by the elections for three new provincial assemblies held in June 1989. The results were hailed by FLNKS and RPCR as a victory for the Matignon Agreement. In February 1990, municipal elections

were held in the province of Ouvéa. FLNKS won 20 seats in the Ouvéa island administration and RPCR, 4.

In October 1989, the Committee to Monitor the Matignon Agreement brought together in Paris a delegation composed of signatories to the Agreement and French Government delegates. Their working meetings led to a thorough review of issues on which new impetus, more detailed study or clarifications were necessary.

FLNKS was accepted as a full member of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), which comprises Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, at its meeting in Solomon Islands in March 1990.

According to press reports, FLNKS has launched a campaign to bring together all political parties in New Caledonia into one organization.

An Amnesty Bill was promulgated into law in January 1990. It related to amnesty for New Caledonian separatists who were facing charges resulting from their involvement in a violent hostage incident which took place in Ouvéa in 1988, during which several French gendarmes and 19 Kanaks died. The Amnesty Law of 1988 which resulted in the release of 47 Kanak militants was not applicable to those who, by their direct and personal action, were the principal perpetrators of the crime of murder as provided in article 296 of the French Penal Code. The purpose of the new law was to extend the benefit of the amnesty to those previously excluded by the above 1988 law.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The basis of the economy is the nickel industry which,

in 1989, accounted for 80.4 per cent of the exports. The mining sector is dominated by European settlers, who also own most of the arable land. Most Kanaks are involved in subsistence agriculture, which plays a minor role in the economy.

Since the early years of French control, the Kanaks had been confined mainly to reserves in designated areas, in particular the outlying islands. The Europeans had settled on the west coast of Grand Terre, which has 83 per cent of the arable land in the Territory.

In October 1989, the Administrative Council of the newly formed joint rural and land development agency, Agence de développement rural et d'aménagement foncier, decided, *inter alia*, on the transfer of 30,000 hectares of land, of which 15,000 hectares were to be transferred by the end of 1989 and the remainder before the end of 1990. The Kanaks were to be allocated two thirds of the first 15,000 hectares and three quarters of the second 15,000 hectares.

Since the 1970s, the economy had been adversely affected by a decline in world nickel market prices. Beginning in 1988, however, nickel production recovered considerably. Total production of nickel ore amounted to 4.9 million tons in 1989, an increase of 41 per cent from 1988 and 59 per cent from 1987. Exports, mainly to Japan, earned 2 billion Communauté financière du Pacifique francs (CFPF 100 = 5.5 French francs) in 1989.

In April 1990, after a year of negotiations, a FLNKS regional council bought for \$US 319 million the 85 per cent share of Mr. Jacques Lafleur, President of RPCR, in the largest private nickel mine, the Société minière du Paci-

fique. The French Government was reported to have agreed beforehand to the transaction.

Mr. Lafleur is reported to have stated that he favoured a stronger economic role for Melanesians prior to the 1998 referendum on self-determination scheduled under the Matignon Agreement. According to the same sources, Mr. Lafleur was congratulated by the Prime Minister of France for his gesture, which the French Government considered a major contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the Matignon Agreement.

The Territory relies on subsidies from France to supplement local sources of revenue. In 1988 and 1989, subsidies amounted to CFPF 7,600 million and CFPF 3,531 million, respectively.

To remedy the concentration of most economic activities in the southern part of the main island and to ensure a more balanced economic development of all the regions, the Matignon Agreement provides for a series of measures, including the decentralization and regionalization of a number of economic activities and the launching of regional development programmes tailored in size and objectives to meet the specific needs of each region.

In that connection, it was reported in December 1989 that the presidents of the regional councils of the three provinces and the High Commissioner had signed a development contract aimed at investing a total of 1.9 billion French francs in the economy of the Territory over a three-year period. In conformity with the spirit of the Matignon Agreement, approximately 75 per cent of that amount will be spent on various development projects

non Agreement established that in calculating State resource allocations to the provinces for the construction of secondary schools, consideration would be given to the total school population, including private school pupils.

PUBLIC FINANCE

Ordinary revenue for 1989 amounted to CFPF 50 billion, compared with CFPF 38 billion in 1988. Extraordinary revenue totalled CFPF 4.6 billion in 1988, compared with CFPF 3.1 billion in 1986. Major sources of revenue were direct taxes, indirect taxes and State subsidies provided by the French Government.

Ordinary expenditure amounted to CFPF 47.2 billion in 1989, compared to CFPF 42.5 billion in 1988. Administrative expenditure on services and Government totalled CFPF 36.3 billion in 1989, compared to CFPF 18.8 billion in 1988. That represented about 77 per cent of total ordinary expenditure.

FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS

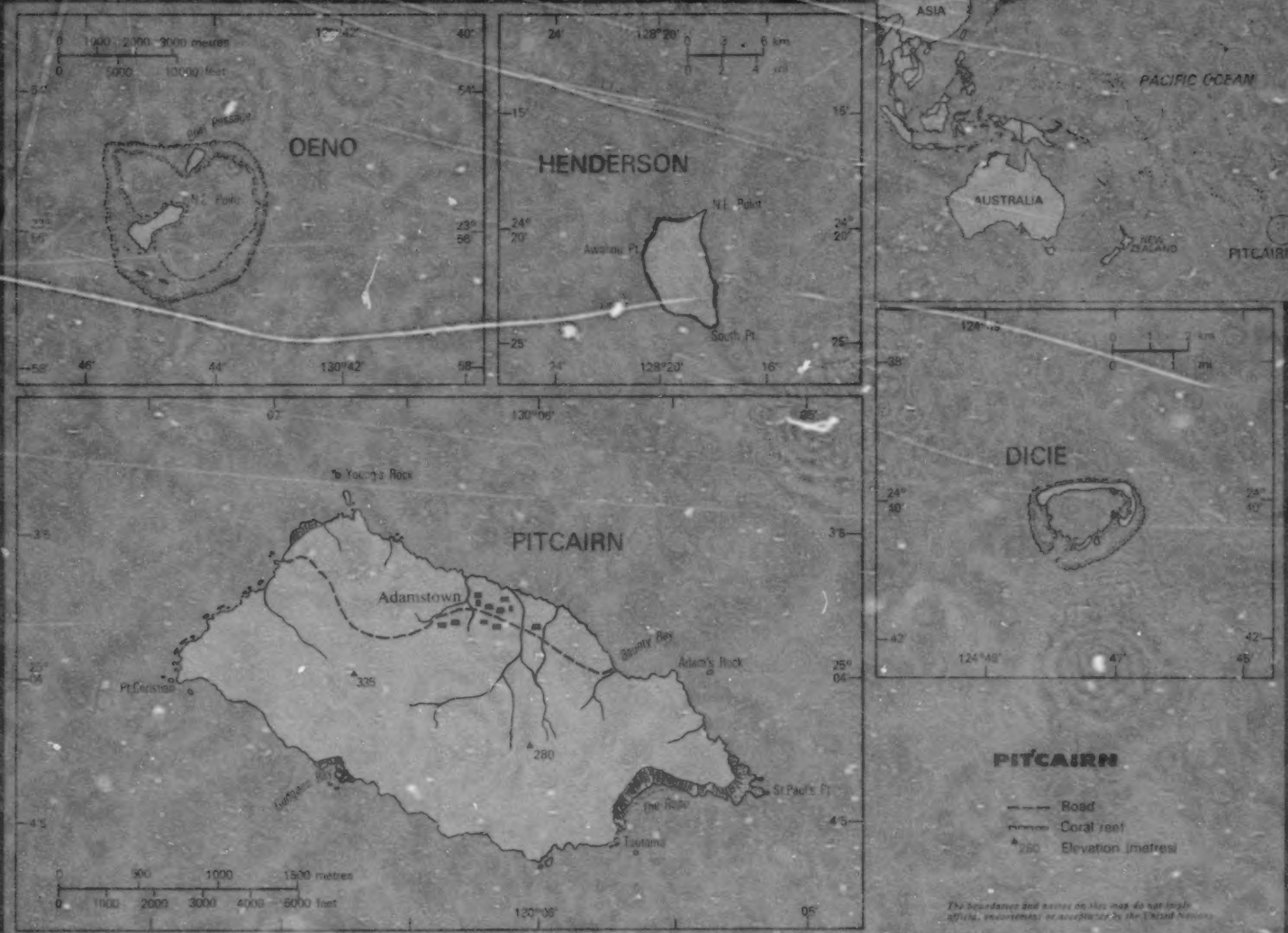
In December 1986, the General Assembly stated that it considered New Caledonia to be a Non-Self-Governing

Territory and affirmed the right of its people to self-determination and independence.

France maintained that New Caledonia was not included in the category of Non-Self-Governing Territory since, as French citizens, New Caledonians benefited from the same rights as other citizens of France and had institutions which ensured free management of their own affairs. If the majority of the people of New Caledonia came out in favour of independence, France would respect that decision, the French representative said.

In November 1990, the General Assembly urged all the parties involved, in the interest of all the people of New Caledonia, to maintain in a spirit of harmony their dialogue and invited them to continue promoting a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all New Caledonians.

Representatives of the Territory participated in the regional seminar for the Pacific, held in Vanuatu in May 1990, as part of the Programme of Activities in Observance of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.



in the northern province and the eastern islands province while the southern province will receive 25 per cent.

An exclusive economic zone of 200 miles around the Territory covers 2.1 million square kilometres, and great potential exists for the development of fisheries. In 1988, small-scale fishing in the lagoons and coastal waters by independent fishermen accounted for some 5,775 tons, including 2,000 tons caught by non-professional fishermen and/or for self-consumption. There were 248 fishing boats, excluding those of subsistence fishermen.

Since 1987, total annual production of tuna and related species, nearly all exported to Japan, has exceeded 1,000 tons.

Shrimp exports, which began as the result of an aquaculture experiment, rose in value from CFPF 65 million in 1988 to CFPF 113 million in 1989, accounting for almost 20 per cent of fisheries exports.

In 1986, fishing agreements were negotiated with Japan under which 37 Japanese boats were allowed to fish in the Territory's waters and catch a maximum of 2,500 tons of tuna and related species, with an estimated value of CFPF 20.6 million. The agreements were renewed in March 1990 for 15 months.

Tourism, which traditionally had been one of the secondary mainstays of the economy, was adversely affected by political developments in the past few years. Total arrivals in the Territory increased, however, by 35.3 per cent from 1987 to 1989.

The health system is organized into 25 districts. In 1986, there were 226 medical practitioners, 22 dentists

and 18 pharmacists in public service. Medical personnel in private practice in 1988 numbered 99 doctors, 29 pharmacists and 28 dentists. The budgetary allocation for public health in 1987 amounted to about CFPF 6.2 billion—an increase of 15.9 per cent over 1986.

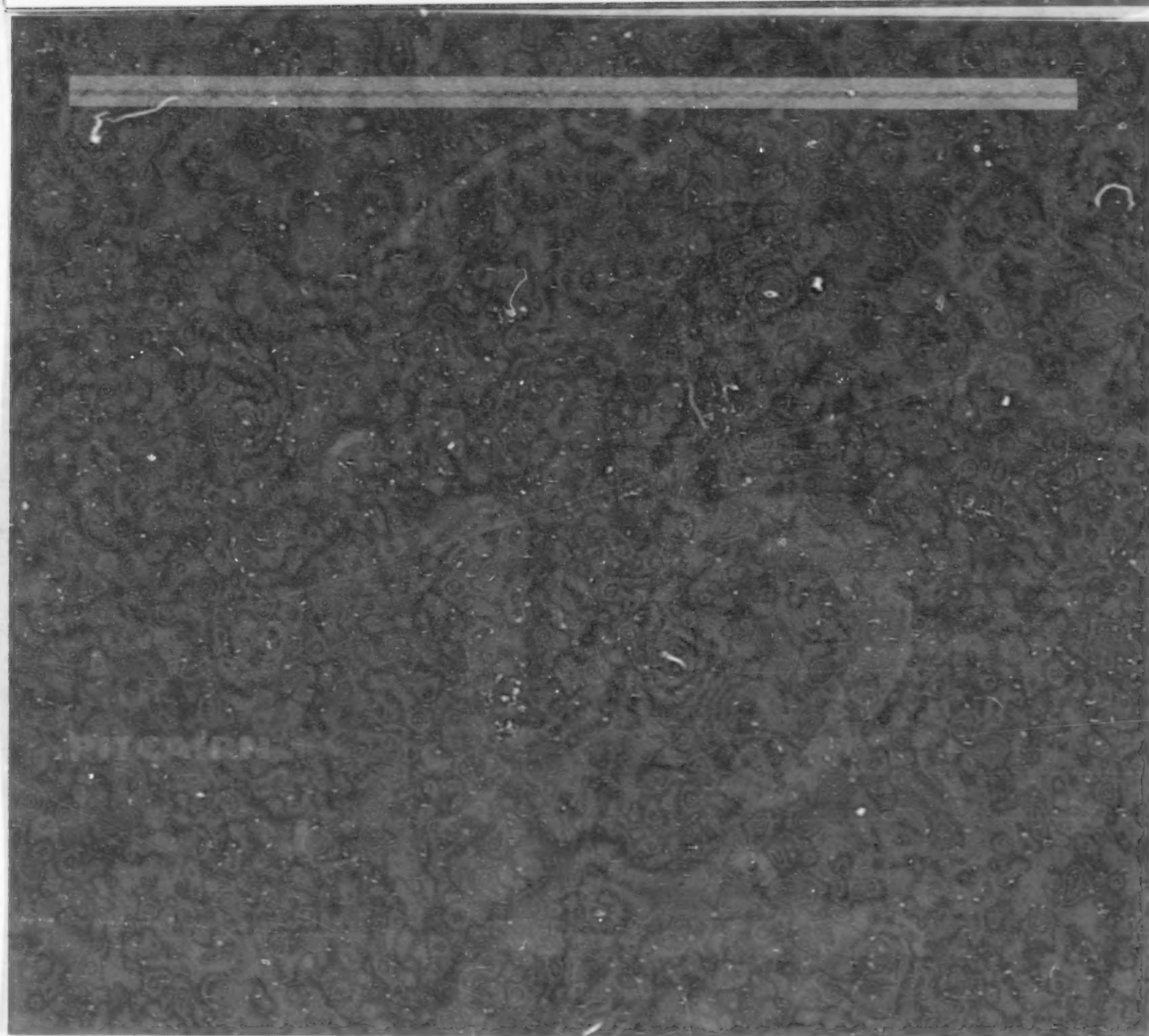
Education is free and compulsory for children between six and 14 years of age and is offered in the French language. Primary education is within the competence of territorial authorities, while secondary education conforms to French standards.

There is an extensive network of primary schools and secondary institutions offering academic and technical/vocational programmes. Five institutions offer programmes in teacher training, law (in conjunction with the University of Bordeaux), advanced technical fields, and commercial and business subjects. In addition to public schools, there is a large number of parochial and non-religious private schools.

According to FLNKS, the French curriculum is not adapted to Kanak culture, which explains the relatively high rate of failure of Melanesian students, particularly at the higher level. For the past several years, FLNKS has run alternative schools (*écoles populaires kanakes*) at the elementary level, with an enrolment of about 1,500 students in 1986.

Kanaks represent 56.5 per cent of students at the primary level and constitute 40 per cent of the total enrolment in secondary and vocational high schools. In 1986 and 1987, 32 students were enrolled in post-secondary establishments in New Caledonia and 238 in France.

In October 1989, the Committee to Monitor the Matig-



PITCAIRN



Pitcairn is the smallest and least populated of all the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It consists of four islands. Only Pitcairn, a volcanic island situated in the South Pacific, about midway between Australia and South America, is inhabited. Included in the Territory are three uninhabited islands: Oeno, Ducie and Henderson.

Pitcairn is 3 kilometres long and 1.5 km wide. The island rises to a 1,000-foot-high crater. It has an area of 4.5 square kilometres and is largely covered with secondary bush, interspersed with grass, family gardens and fruit trees. Outside of the Adamstown settlement, which occupies about 24 hectares, most of the remaining land is classified as suitable for gardens or arable farming (117 hectares) and forest (77 hectares); some comprises non-arable cliffs and rock ledges (121 hectares).

For the year ending March 1989, one death and no births were recorded. There were 48 Pitcairners on the island, while the number of expatriates fluctuated between nine and 21.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Pitcairn is populated by descendants of mutineers from the *H.M.S. Bounty*, which arrived at the island in 1790. Fletcher Christian cast Captain William Bligh and 19 crew members adrift on the open seas in a long-boat before taking the remainder of the *Bounty's* crew to refuge on Pitcairn. The first settlers included nine mutineers and 19 Polynesians.

LOCATION: South Central Pacific

AREA: 4.5 square kilometres

POPULATION (March 1989): 48 Pitcairners,
9 to 21 expatriates

ADMINISTERING POWER: United Kingdom